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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Pastor Ken Carney, First Church of the Nazarene, Hot Springs, AR.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we come before You today asking You for a new touch of grace to fall on all of our elected leaders. You told us in Your Word to ask for wisdom. I humbly ask today for everyone who governs and makes decisions concerning our great country to be filled with Your divine wisdom. Please, Father, remember mercy for those who are weak and struggling.

I close my prayer by asking that You protect all of our elected leaders and their families from harm and danger.

This I pray in Your Holy and Matchless Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 23, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there are a lot of tired clichés about not giving up after an initial setback. I won't subject our colleagues to any of those this morning, but I will say that last night's vote represents an important first step toward passing a multiyear, bipartisan highway bill. It is the first step on a much longer road but, in my view, a worthwhile one.

This bipartisan bill will fund our roads, highways, and bridges for longer than any transportation bill considered by Congress in a decade, and the highway proposal will do so without increasing taxes or adding to the deficit. That is no small achievement.

Just consider what the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget had to say about the bill we voted to move forward on last night. It is "refreshing," they said, to see Congress focusing "on a multi-year solution instead of just another short-term patch." In general, their overall view was that this is "a fiscally responsible bill that relies on some pretty solid offsets." That is from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. They called it "a fiscally responsible bill that relies on some pretty solid offsets." Positive comments such as those echo the kinds of things I continue to hear from Members of both parties.

I would like to thank the Senator from California and the other Members

on her side who worked with us to help prepare this bill and then voted with us to advance it last night. I hope we will continue to work together to finally deliver a fiscally responsible, long-term highway bill for the American people.

### OBLIGATIONS UNDER IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday I joined Speaker BOEHNER, Senator COTTON, and Congressman POMPEO in sending a letter to the administration with a simple request: that the administration meet its full obligations to Congress under the terms of the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—a law both parties supported overwhelmingly just this spring. The law gives Congress the right to review all of the elements of an agreement struck between the White House and Iran and then take a vote on it.

The law is clear, but the administration has not submitted the side agreements between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran to the Senate, withholding the text from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress. And since the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act was signed into law prior to the completion of the negotiation in Vienna, Secretary Kerry was fully aware—fully aware—of the requirement in law to submit the side deal to Congress.

Congress cannot properly carry out its obligation to the American people until the administration fulfills its legal obligation to the American people and to Congress, so we are calling on the administration to do that immediately.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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